

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /082 W

----- 045154

R 141500Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 242

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SY LE CZ

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION AT SYRIAN EMBASSY

1. SOME 120 ARAB STUDENTS, MOSTLY LEBANESE BUT WITH A SPRINKLING OF SUDANESE AND OTHER NATIONALITIES, "OCCUPIED" SYRIAN EMBASSY IN PRAGUE FOR SOME FOUR HOURS MAY 12. STUDENTS PRESENTED PETITION CONDEMNING SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON. THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE, AND STUDENTS EVENTUALLY LEFT, APPARENTLY ON OWN ACCORD. POLICE WERE STANDING BY, BUT DID NOT ENTER EMBASSY GROUNDS.

2. OBSERVERS HERE ARE WONDERING HOW SUCH AN OPERATION COULD HAVE BEEN MOUNTED AND CARRIED OUT WITHOUT ATTRACTING SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO ABORT IT. EMBASSY IS IN SEPARATE BUILDING, SURROUNDED BY 5-6 FOOT WALL, WITH ACCESS THROUGH GATE. DESPITE FACT THAT EMBASSY DOESN'T OPEN FOR BUSINESS UNTIL 11:00 A.M., STUDENTS HAD ENTERED BY 10:30. TOTAL SIZE OF GROUP MAKES IT UNLIKELY THAT TACTIC USED

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BY KURDISH STUDENTS WHO OCCUPIED SWEDISH EMBASSY IN 1974, I.E.,

INFILTRATING A NUMBER OF TWO-THREE MAN GROUPS, COULD HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. FURTHER, AS ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR NOTES, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY IN SOCIETY WHERE EVERY STUDENT DORMITORY PRESUMABLY HAS ITS POLICE INFORMERS--THAT PLANS FOR SUCH AN ACTIVITY COULD HAVE BEEN KEPT SECRET. HE FEELS, AND MOST OF OUR COLLEAGUES WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED SIUTATION AGREE, THAT AUTHORITIES PROBABLY HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF DEMONSTRATION, WHICH HAD AT LEAST THEIR TACIT APPROVAL, IF NOT THEIR ENCOURAGEMENT.

3. LEBANESE AMBASSADOR, UPON LEARNING OF INCIDENT, IMMEDIATELY PHONED FOREIGN MINISTRY TO REQUEST POLICE PROTECTION. EMBOFF NOTED FIVE CAR LOADS OF POLICE PARKED NEAR LEBANESE EMBASSY EARLY ON EVENING OF MAY 12.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF INCIDENT IN LOCAL MEDIA. ALTHOUGH LOCAL WIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES DID FILE STORIES, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY COVERAGE IN WESTERN MEDIA EITHER. PERRY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 MAY 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PRAGUE01343  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEMONSTRATION AT SYRIAN EMBASSY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, LE, CZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006